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Fantastic Four

Fantastic Four

SEPT '86 416



PSYSLAUGHT
PHASE 2



DIRECT EDITION



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4A HEAVILY SHIELDED BRIEFING ROOM SOMEWHERE IN THE BALKANS...

BEHOLD, EXCELLENCY--! OUR SPY SATELLITE MANAGED TO TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING PHOTOS BEFORE IT WAS DISABLED BY A POWERFUL ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE.

AN ARMY OF SENTINEL-CLASS ROBOTS HAS APPARENTLY TURNED AGAINST HUMANITY AND INVADDED NEW YORK CITY.

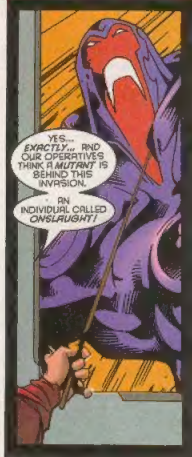
MANY OF THE CITY'S COSTUMED HEROES HAVE Banded TOGETHER IN RESPONSE, AND --

YOU NEEDN'T BELABOR THE OBVIOUS, FOOL!

THAT PICTURE SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

I BELIEVE THESE ROBOTS WERE ORIGINALLY DESIGNED TO COMBAT SUPER-POWERED MUTANTS.





YES...
EXACTLY... AND
OUR OPERATIVES
THINK A MUTANT IS
BEHIND THIS
INVASION.

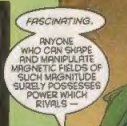
AN
INDIVIDUAL CALLED
ONSLAUGHT!



BY MEANS WE HAVE YET TO
DETERMINE, HE CAUSED A
MASSIVE CITADEL TO
MATERIALIZED WITHIN NEW
YORK'S CENTRAL
PARK --

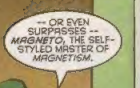
-- AND
HE IS ALSO
THE AUTHOR OF
THE EMP WHICH
IMMOBILIZED THE
CITY AND OUR
SATELLITE.

24 ELECTRO-MAGNETIC
PULSE.



FASCINATING.

ANYONE
WHO CAN SHAPE
AND MANIPULATE
MAGNETIC FIELDS OF
SUCH MAGNITUDE
SURELY POSSESSES
POWER WHICH
RIVALS --



-- OR EVEN
SURPASSES --
MAGNETO, THE SELF-
STYLED MASTER OF
MAGNETISM.



POWER
ON THAT
LEVEL SHOULD
ONLY BE WIELDED
BY DOCTOR
DOOM.

HAVE
YOU ANYTHING
FURTHER TO
REPORT?



THE
SON OF MY
GREATEST
ENEMY?

THIS
IMPUDENT
MUTANT MAY
REQUIRE...

...MY
PERSONAL
ATTENTION.

INDEED, MASTER,
ACCORDING TO OUR
SOURCES, ONSLAUGHT
WAS ALLEGEDLY
KIDNAPPED FRANKLIN
RICHARDS.



THE FABULOUS FANTASTIC FOUR FACE THEIR GREATEST CHALLENGE!

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FOR THE PAST SEVERAL HOURS, SUSAN RICHARDS HAS SUPERVISED THE MAKE-SHIFT TRIAGE CENTER WITHIN FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA...

WITH STOIC PROFESSIONALISM, SHE HAS ATTENDED TO THOSE RECENTLY WOUNDED IN THE BATTLE AGAINST THE FORCES OF ONSLAUGHT.

HER STRENGTH IS AN INSPIRATION TO ALL...

UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS ONLY A FACADE...

FRANKLIN MUST HAVE LEFT THESE TOYS IN HERE BEFORE...

OH, GOD! WHY DID THAT KOSOV STEAL MY SON?

I CAN'T LOSE HOPE! MUSTN'T DESPAIR!

B-BUT HOW MUCH LONGER CAN I CARRY ON --

-- WITHOUT KNOWING IF MY BOYFRIEND IS DEAD OR ALIVE?

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IF ONLY FRANKLIN COULD FIND A WAY TO SEND US A SIGNAL, OR...

SCOTT! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

I... I'M TRYING TO SIT UP, SUSAN.

YOU AND THE OTHERS NEED ALL THE HELP YOU CAN GET... AND THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING I CAN DO... EVEN IN MY PRESENT CONDITION.

A WAVE OF NAUSEA SWEEPS OVER SCOTT LANG.

HE'S LUCKY TO BE ALIVE.

ANT MAN, HE WAS WEARING HIS CYBERNETIC HELMET WHEN ONSLAUGHT'S EMP SWEEP ACROSS THE CITY — AND ALMOST FLASH-FRIED HIS BRAIN.



I APPRECIATE THE OFFER, BUT YOU NEED TO REST AND REGAIN YOUR STRENGTH.

WOULDN'T YOU AGREE, DR. MCCOY?

YES... THAT... SOUNDS RIGHT TO ME!

I MUST ADMIT, AFTER MY TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES OF LATE...

I COULD BENEFIT FROM THE SAME PRESCRIPTION...

UNBEKNOWNST TO HIS CURRENT COMRADES, HANK MCCOY WAS THE KIDNAP VICTIM OF HIS EVIL DOPELGAINGER FROM THE AGE OF APOCALYPSE, AND WAS RECENTLY RESCUED BY X-FACTOR.



I... I FEEL SO USELESS... SO HELPLESS!

AND I'M WORRIED ABOUT MY DAUGHTER.

CASSIE'S IN GOOD HANDS. KRIEGER IS WATCHING OVER HER.

STUPID! HE AND I HAD OUR DIFFERENCES, BUT I DON'T DOUBT HE'LL PROTECT HER WITH HIS LIFE.

I... REALLY WISH I HAD TAKEN THE TIME TO GET TO KNOW HIM BETTER.



WE ALL HAVE OUR REGRETS, SCOTT...

...EVERYONE OF US HAS WASTED TIME WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN PUT TO BETTER USE.

WE CAN ONLY HOPE WE'LL GET ANOTHER CHANCE TO CORRECT THOSE MISTAKES.







4
LIE IS ALONE.

AND MORE
THAN A LITTLE
FRIGHTENED.

BUT, THOUGH THIS
CHILD HAS SUFFERED
TORMENTS WHICH
WOULD CRUSH MOST
ADULTS —



— FRANKLIN
RICHARDS WILL
NOT YIELD TO
DESPAIR.

HIS PARENTS
WILL COME.



HIS FAITH
IN THEM IS
BEYOND
QUESTION.

AND SO, HE
CONCENTRATES...

ONSLAUGHT RECENTLY
TAUGHT THIS MUTANT
CHILD A SIMPLE TRICK.

A METHOD
OF USING
HIS MIND
TO REACH
ANOTHER.

A PLOY WHICH WAS
THEN UTILIZED TO
ENSNARE THE MUTANT
KNOWN AS X-MAN.

BUT FRANKLIN
LEARNED HIS
LESSON WELL.

EVEN NOW HE URGENTLY
ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT
HIS FAMILY, PROJECTING
COMFORTING IMAGES OF
HIMSELF.

IT IS A DESPERATE,
BUT HEROIC ACT.



EXACTLY THE KIND ONE
WOULD EXPECT FROM
A CHILD RAISED BY THE
FANTASTIC FOUR!

HIGH ATOP HIS CITADEL WITHIN NEW YORK'S CENTRAL PARK, ONSLAUGHT INSTANTLY SENSES FRANKLIN'S PLAN...

WE WILL ALLOW THESE IMAGES TO REACH FRANKLIN'S PARENTS...

... BUT NOT IN THE MANNER THE MUTANT CHILD INTENDS!

THIS IS SO BORRRING!

FOR THE BRIEFEST OF MOMENTS, HE CONSIDERS INTERCEPTING THE CHILD'S THOUGHT PROJECTIONS.

BUT THEN, A CRUEL SMILE DANCES ACROSS HIS LIPS...

MAYBE, HAWKEYE...

... BUT SOMEONE'S GOT TO KEEP AN ADVANCE EYE OUT FOR ONSLAUGHT.

I AGREE, ICEMAN... ONSLAUGHT'S CITADEL HAS TO BE WATCHED...

... BUT IT OUGHTTA BE SOMEONE ELSE.

THIS IS A WASTE OF MY TALENTS.

I'M A MAN OF ACTION, A FIGHTER... NOT A WATCHER!

Uh-Oh...

... LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET YOUR WISH!

NO!
No!
IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!

I'M AFRAID IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE, HAWKEYE.

ONSLAUGHT'S GOT MORE TRICKS THAN YOU'VE GOT ARROWS!

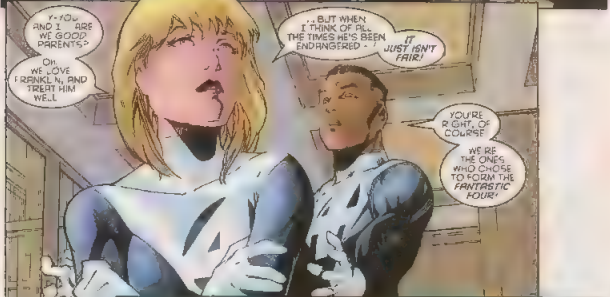


MEANWHILE, WITHIN
FOUR FREEDOM'S
PLAZA...

WHAT'S
HAPPENED
TO US
REED?
WE HAD
A CLASSIC
FAIRY TALE
ROMANCE
THAT
CAN'T BE OUR
VERSION OF
"HAPPILY EVER
AFTER"

WINGS
ARE BOUND
TO IMPROVE
SUSAN

ARE
THEY



YOU
AND I ARE
WE GOOD
PARENTS?

OH,
WE LOVE
FRANKLIN, AND
TREAT HIM
WELL

...BUT WHEN
I THINK OF ALL
THE TIMES HE'S BEEN
ENDANGERED -

IT
JUST ISN'T
FAIR!

YOU'RE
RIGHT, OF
COURSE

WE'RE
THE ONES
WHO CHOSE
TO FORM THE
FANTASTIC
FOUR!



OUR
SON SHOULDN'T
SUFFER FOR OUR
DECISIONS

BUT
WHAT CAN WE
DO? WE HAVE A
RESPONSIBILITY TO
THE WORLD

WHAT
ABOUT OUR
RESPONSIBILITY...

TO
OUR
SON?



SUSAN,
WHEN THIS IS
OVER

- WHEN
FRANKLIN'S
SAFE AND
ONSLAUGHT'S
DEFEATED -

I
PROMISE
THAT THE THREE
OF US WILL TAKE A
SABBATICAL

UNTIL
WE'VE FOUND
AN ANSWER WE
CAN ALL LIVE
WITH

THANK
YOU, MY
DARLING I
'M JUST SO
WORRIED

I
WE'LL BE
MUCH

AND
I
WILL

NOT FAR AWAY.

WHOOPS! ALMOST BLUNDERED INTO JOHNNY N. LYR... AND IT DON'T TAKE NO GENIUS TO SEE THEY WANNA BE ALONE!

TURNING AT THE SOUND OF HIS NAME THE THING'S EYES GO WIDE AT THE UNEXPECTED HIGH OF PHILIP AND ALICIA MASTERS

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND THE SURPRISE VISIT

ROBERTA, YOUR ROBOT RECEPTIONIST SAID IT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT TO COME IN WITHOUT AN ESCORT

WITH ALL THE TROUBLE OUTSIDE, WE'VE BEEN GETTING PLenty A DROP INS --

-- SO REED PROGRAMMER TO ADMIT ANYONE WE'D CONSIDER A FRIEND

KNOW THAT HARDLY APPLIES TO THE PUPPET MASTER

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE END OF THE WORLD, GRIMM AND WELL, I WAS HopING THE FF COULD USE MY HELP

A VERY GENEROUS OFFER PHILIP

AND THERE'S CERTAINLY ROOM IN OUR TRAGE CENTER FOR AN EXTRA PAIR OF HANDS.

WELCOME BACK REED

JUST TO HEAR THE SOUND OF YOUR VOICE AGAIN

SHOULD MY STEP-DAUGHTER JOIN US, MR. RICHARDS?

NEVER THOUGHT I'D SAY IT... BUT I HOPE THOSE KIDS CAN FINAL... SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES THEY BELONG TOGETHER!

AND I'D LIKE TO SEE SOMEONE ON THIS TEAM SNAG ALL THE HAPPINESS

BEN --!

JK. NO. I THINK SHE'LL DO MORE GOOD RIGHT WHERE SHE IS.

YOU
MEAN DONALD
HALBERG?

I FINALLY
CONVINCED HIM
TO TAKE HIS
PROBLEMS TO A
TEACHER.

THE SCHOOL
OFFICIALS CONTACTED
HIS MOTHER, AND
ARRANGED FOR HER
AND DONALD TO
MOVE INTO A
SHELTER.

I HEAR
HIS FATHER IS
GOING FOR
COUNSELING.

YOUR
FATHER WILL
BE FINE, MISS
CASSIE.

I'M MORE
CONCERNED
ABOUT YOUR
CLASSMATE.

AN ADULT IN MANY
WAYS, HE IS STILL
ONLY A CHILD.

JK.
WHAT'S A
DWEEB?

HE'S
A DWEAB
CAN RESPOND

A BLINDING
FLASH FILLS
THE ROOM.

I'M
AFRAID YOUR
VOCABULARY
LESSON --

-- AND
YOUR LIFE --

-- ARE
ABOUT TO
COME TO A RATHER
ABRUPT END,
YOUNG
MAN!

WHO
ARE YOU?

HE'S
KANG THE
ILLUSTRATOR --
A MERCILESS
DICTATOR FROM
THE DISTANT
FUTURE!

IF
THE FATHER
WAS MISTREATING
DONALD, WHY DIDN'T
THE MOTHER AND
CHILD MOVE
OUT?

KRISTOFF
FOR A GUY WHO'S
SUPPOSED TO
BE A SCIENTIFIC
GENIUS.

YOU
CAN BE
SUCH A DWEEB
WHEN IT COMES
TO THE REAL
WORLD.

THOUGH HE IS
ONLY TWELVE
YEARS OLD --

KRISTOFF VERNARD
HAS BEEN ARTIFICIALLY
IMPLANTED WITH THE
MEMORIES, PERSONALITY
AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE
DREADED DOCTOR DOOM.

TAKE
COVER,
CASSIE!

WHAT
ARE YOU HERE
CONQUERING?

SNIT
MY OUS?

I WISH
TO STRIKE
AT MY RIVAL
DOOM --

BY
DESTROYING HIS
DESIGNATED
HEIR!

RELEASING AN
UNEXPECTED
WARRIOR BURST
FORTH OR YES
AS STOPS TO
HE WARRIOR BUT
FORTH.

YOU
WON'T FIND
ME A HELPLESS
TARGET
KANG

THOUGH
WE HAVE NEVER
MET, I POSSESS MY
MASTERS' MEMORIES
OF YOU... AND
YOU SEEM

ODDLY
DIFFERENT

YOU
SURELY WOULD
HAVE KILLED ME HAD
I NOT BEEN FOR MY
PERSONAL FORCE-
FIELD. BUT YOU SHALL
NOT BE SO
WHAP?

W-WHERE
DID HE GO?

I
CANNOT SAY
HE WAS AS SOLID AS
ROCK ONE MOMENT
AND THEN -

-- AS
SUBSTANTIAL
AS A MIRAGE!

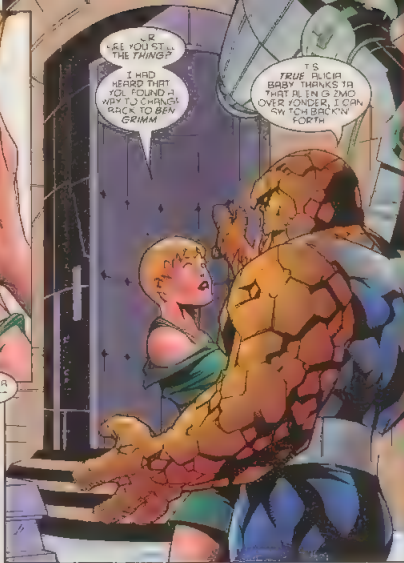


"IS THIS A DREAM --"

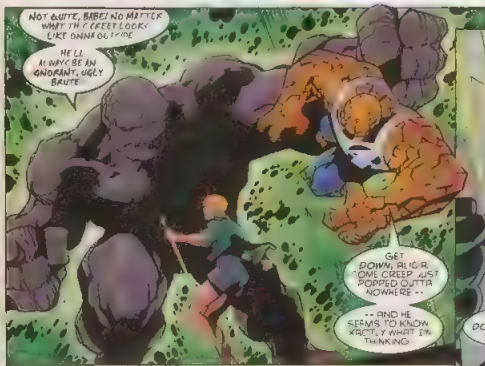
"OR ARE YOU STILL THE THING?"
I HAD HEARD THAT YOU FOUND A WAY TO CHANGE BACK TO BEN GRIMM

"IT'S TRUE, ALICIA. BABY THANKS TO THAT AL EN G ZMO OVER YONDER, I CAN SWITCH BACK IN FORTH

"YOU FINALLY GOT YOUR WISH, BEN.
A CHANCE TO BE A NORMAL LEP



"AND STILL BE A PART OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR
YOU MUST BE SO HAPPY!"



"NOT QUITE, BABE! NO MATTER WHAT THE CREEP LOOKS LIKE ONNA OUTSIDE

"HE'LL ALWAYS BE AN IGNORANT, UGLY BRUTE

"GET DOWN, ALICIA. SOME CREEP JUST POPPED OUTTA NOWHERE --

-- AND HE SEEMS TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'M THINKING



"INDEED HE DOES, YOU PITIFUL GARGOYLE

IS HE
NOT THE
CREATION OF THE
PSYCHO-MAN,
THE MASTER OF
EMOTIONS?

IT
IS USELESS TO
STRUGGLE

YOUR
WORDS
EXPRESS FAR
MORE CONFIDENCE
THAN YOU FEEL.
GR MM.

M-HE
AINT K'DDIN'
BUT I CANT
GIVE UP

CANT
PASS OUT

NOT WHILE
AL C.A.'S IN
DANGER.

I
GOTTA DIG
DEEP --

-- AN
SOMEHOW
FIND THE
STRENGTH 'N
COURAGE --

-- TO
OVERTHROW
EVERY ANXIETY
I EVER HAD
ABOUT MYSELF,
BECAUSE --

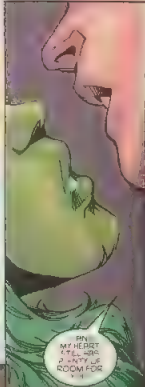
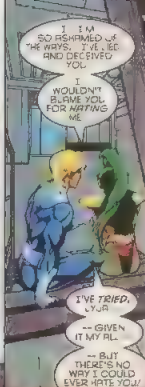
IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!

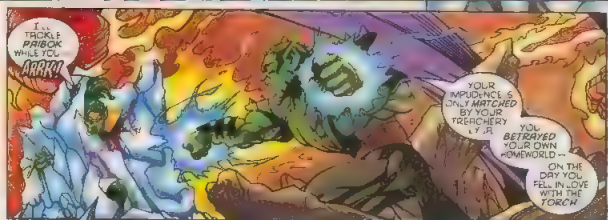
THE
CREATURE
WHICH NOW SEEKS
TO CRUSH YOU IS
POWERED BY YOUR
OWN FEARS, YOUR
OWN DOUBTS AND
INSECURITIES!

Y'YA
REALLY CAUGHT
ME AT A BAD TIME,
CHUCKLES.

AFTER
FACIN' OFF
AGAINST A
"WIN' POWERHOUSE
LIKE ONSLAUGHT,
YER A WALK INNA
PARK!







I'LL
TACKLE
PRIBOK
WHILE YOU
AAAH!

YOUR
IMPUDENCE IS
ONLY MATCHED
BY YOUR
TREACHERY
LYJA

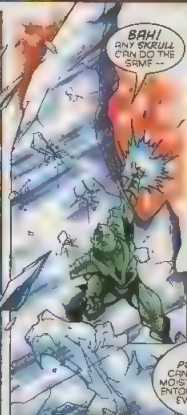
YOU
BETRAYED
YOUR OWN
HOMEWORLD --

ON THE
DAY YOU
FELL IN LOVE
WITH THE
TORCH



AND
YOU'RE A
MADMAN,
PRIBOK

IF YOU
THINK WERE ICE
CAN RESTRAIN ONE
WHO CAN CHANGE
HER FORM AT WILL!



BAH!
ANY SKRULL
CAN DO THE
SAME --



-- BUT
ONLY THE
POWER SKRULL
CAN CHASE THE VERY
MOISTURE IN THE AIR TO
ENTOMB YOU WITHIN AN
EVER-GROWING
GLACIER!



BUT THEN EVEN BEFORE
THE SUBZERO PRISON
CAN FULLY SOLIDIFY
AROUND THE LOVELY
SKRULL...

SKRR



TAKE HEART,
LYJA!

KARNAK
AND THE INHUMANS
SHALL FREE YOU BY
ATTACKING THIS
FROZEN BLOCK
AT ITS WEAKEST
POINT

YOU'VE DONE YOUR
PART, MY FRIEND.
NOW STAND
ASIDE!

THE
ONE CALLED
PRIBOK RAISES
HIS ARMS TO
RENEW HIS
ATTACK --

BUT
HE HAS NOT
RECKONED ON
THE WRATH OF
GORGON!

THUD

YOU YOUNG FOOL
HUMANS AND SKRULLS
DO NOT BELONG
TOGETHER.

YOUR
RELATIONSHIP
WITH LYRA IS AN
AFFRONT TO
THE NATURAL
ORDER.

MY BEST BET IS TO LURE
HIM OUTSIDE WHERE I'LL
HAVE MORE ROOM TO
MANEUVER. AND --
WHOA!

LOOKS
LIKE THE
CAVALRY'S
HERE!

THANKS
FOR THE
ASS ST, BLACK
BOLT.

ALTHOUGH
I COULD HAVE
TAKEN THIS CREEP
OUT WITH A WHITE
HOT FLAME
BLAST.

RIGGS IS
LIKE YOU
SHOULD
OPEN THEIR
MINDS --

-- INSTEAD
OF THEIR
MOUTHS!

GUTTA
BE CAREFUL.
"SUPER SKRULL" HAS
ALL THE POWERS OF
THE SS -- INCLUDING
MINE!

MY
FIREBALLS
CAN'T EVEN
SLOW HIM
DOWN.

ZERJONG IN ON HIS
TARGET LIKE AN
UNERRING MISSILE.

THE EVER-SSENT
LORD OF THE INHUMANS
PREPARES FOR A MOST
EXPLOSIVE COLLISION!



I'VE
GOT TO
WARN REED
AND THE
OTHERS

WE
COULD BE
IN REAL TROUBLE
IF OLD ENEMIES
LIKE PAIBOK AND
SUPER SKRULL HAVE
JOINED FORCES WITH
ONSLAUGHT

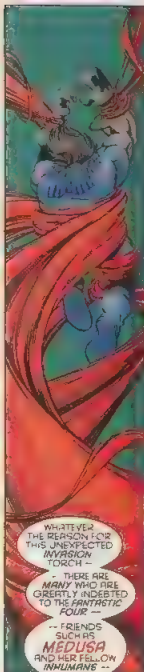
UP-OH!
I'M SUDDENLY
SURROUNDED BY
HIGH-INTENSITY
CONCUSSIVE
BLASTS...



THE
BLASTARI!

WHAT'S THIS
"SUPER-VILLAINS"
CONVENTION?

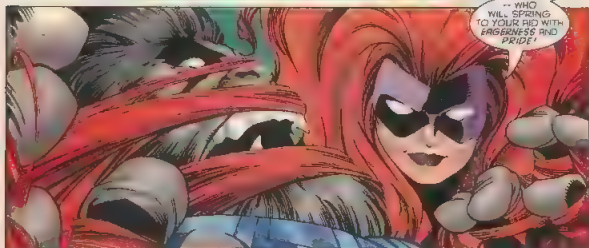
OR ARE THESE
JOKERS MERELY TAKING
ADVANTAGE OF THE GENERAL
CHAOS CAUSED BY
ONSLAUGHT?



WHATEVER
THE REASON FOR
THIS UNEXPECTED
INVASION
TORCH --

-- THERE ARE
MANY WHO ARE
GREATLY INDEBTED
TO THE FANTASTIC
FOUR --

-- FRIENDS
SUCH AS
MEDUSA
AND HER FELLOW
INMUNANS --



-- WHO
WILL SPRING
TO YOUR AID WITH
FIERCENESS AND
PRIDE!



JUST THEN IN
A DISTANT
CORRIDOR

"DURE FAST
RICHARDS

BUT
YOU'RE STILL
NO MATCH FOR
THE WINGLESS
WIZARD!

WITH
MY SLAP OR
BRAIN AND
UNBEATABLE ANTI-
GRAY DEVICES, I'LL
SURELY GO DOWN IN
HISTORY AS THE MAN
WHO KILLED MY
FANTASTIC!

YOU'RE
GOING DOWN
ALL RIGHT,
WINTER

JUST
AS SOON AS
I RICOCHET
OFF THIS
WALL

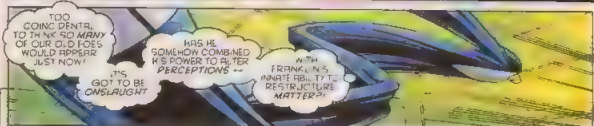


AT
THE PRECISE
ANGLE --

TO
FLATTEN YOU
WITH THE FORCE
OF A RUNAWAY
TRAIN

FASCINATING!
HE VANISHED AT
OUR EXACT MOMENT
OF CONTACT

THIS MUST BE
REPEATED! THE
REPORTS I'VE HAD OF
OTHER UNEXPLORED
ATTACKS IN THE
BUILDING!



TOO
COINCIDENTAL,
TO THINK SO MANY
OF OUR OLD FOES
WOULD APPEAR
JUST NOW!

IT'S
GOT TO BE
ONSLAUGHT

HAS HE
SOMEHOW COMBINED
HIS POWER TO ALTER
PERCEPTIONS --

WITH
FRANKEN'S
MINUTE ABILITY TO
RESTRUCTURE
MATTER?



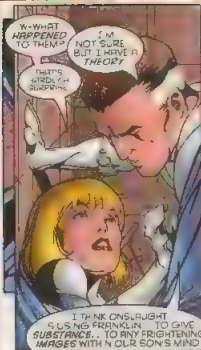
CAN'T
WORRY ABOUT
THAT NOW. NOT WHILE
SUE'S FACING OFF
AGAINST THE MAD
THINKER AND HIS
MOST RECENT
ANDROID!

ACCORDING TO
MY CALCULATIONS
THIS BATTLE WILL
CONCLUDE IN
EXACTLY 2.7
SECONDS

I'LL
BE HAPPY TO
OBLIGE



-- AND
SO WILL MY
INVISIBLE FORCE
BATTERING
RAM!



W-WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THEM?

I'M
NOT SURE
BUT I HAVE A
THEORY

THAT'S
JUST A
SURPRISE

I THINK ONSLAUGHT
USING FRANKLIN TO GIVE
SUBSTANCE... TO ANY FRIGHTENING
IMAGES WITHIN OUR SON'S MIND



GOOD GUESS,
PLANT ONE.

- BUT
I WON'T
SAVE
YOU



IT'S
THE SACRED
DUTY OF DEVOS
THE DEVASTATOR
TO ELIMINATE ANY
FORM CAPABLE
OF WAGING
WAR

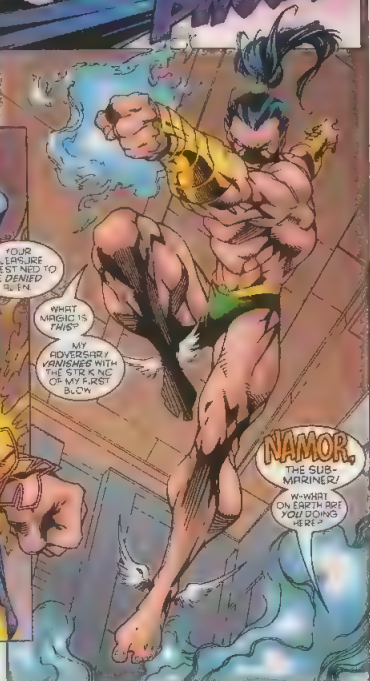
-- AND
I SHALL
TAKE IMMENSE
PLEASURE IN
DEFEATING
YOU.



YOUR
PLEASURE
DESTINY NEED TO
BE DENIED
ALIEN.

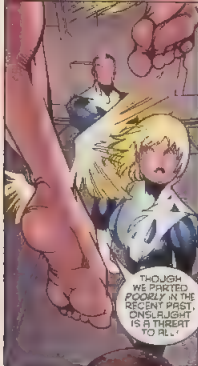
WHAT
MAGIC IS
THIS?

MY
ADVERSARY
VANISHES WITH
THE STRIKING
OF MY FIRST
BLOW

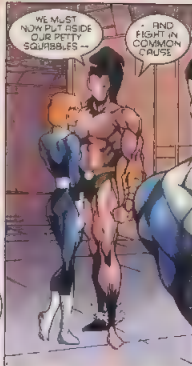


NAMOR.
THE SUB-
MARINER!

W-WHAT
ON EARTH ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?

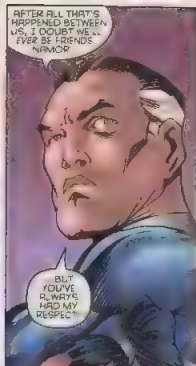


THOUGH WE PARTED POORLY IN THE RECENT PAST, ONSLAUGHT IS A THREAT TO ALL.



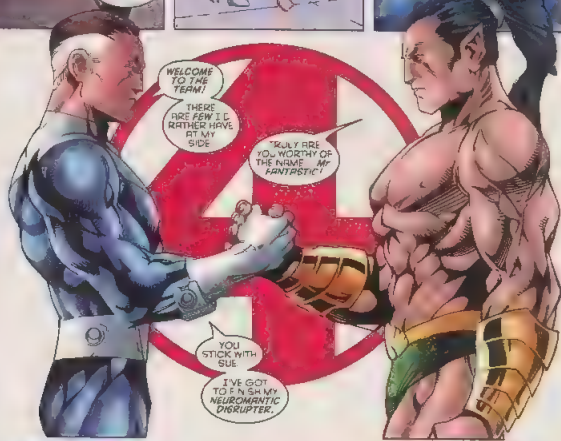
WE MUST NOW PUT ASIDE OUR PETTY SQUABBLES --

AND FIGHT IN COMMON CAUSE



AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED BETWEEN US, I DOUBT WE'LL EVER BE FRIENDS AGAIN.

BUT YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD MY RESPECT.



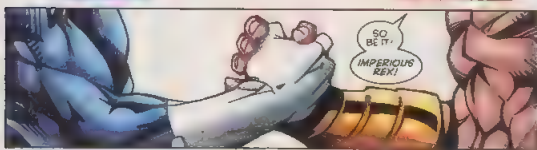
WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

THERE ARE FEW I'D RATHER HAVE AT MY SIDE

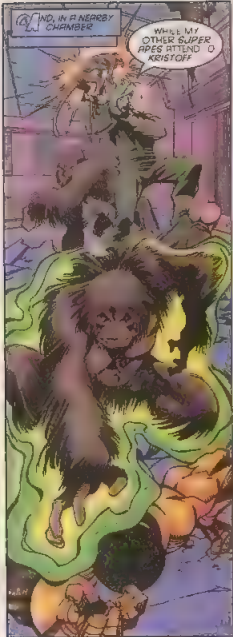
TRULY ARE YOU WORTHY OF THE NAME 'MY FANTASTIC'!

YOU STICK WITH SUE

I'VE GOT TO F.N.S.H MY NEUROMANTIC DISRUPTER.



SO BE IT.
IMPERIOUS REK!



AND, IN A NEARBY CHAMBER

WHILE MY OTHER SUPER APES ATTEND O KRISTOFF

-- I SHALL DISPOSE OF THE MEDDLESOME NATHANIEL RICHARDS!

THERE! MY PET BABOON HAS TRANSFORMED INTO A HIGH-INTENSITY PLASMA GUN, AND NOW

YOU'RE THE **RED GHOST**. I'VE SEEN MENTION OF YOU IN MY SON'S COMPUTER FILES, BUT

HOW DO YOU KNOW MY IDENTITY?

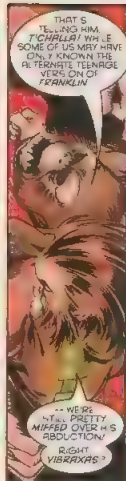
I CANNOT SAY
ALL I KNOW FOR CERTAIN...
IS THAT YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS MUST BE DESTROYED!



NOT TODAY, GHOST!

THOSE YOU HAVE DARED TO TARGET ARE UNDER THE IMPERIAL PROTECTION OF --

-- THE **BLACK PANTHER** AND THE **FANTASTIC FORCE!**



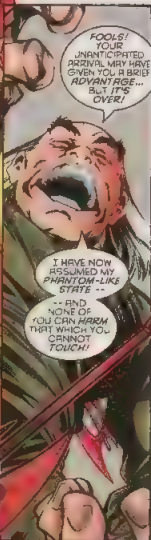
THAT'S
TELLING HIM,
T'CHALLA! WHILE
SOME OF US MAY HAVE
ON, I KNOW THE
ALTERNATE TEENAGE
VERS ON OF
FRANKLIN

-- WE'RE
STILL PRETTY
MIFFED OVER HIS
ABDUCTION!
RIGHT
VIBRAXAS?



MIFFED?!

COME
ON, DEVLOR!
EVEN YOU
CAN DO
BETTER THAN
MIFFED!



FOOLS!
YOUR
UNANTICIPATED
ARRIVAL MAY HAVE
GIVEN YOU A BRIEF
ADVANTAGE...
BUT IT'S
OVER!

I HAVE NOW
ASSUMED MY
PHANTOM-LIKE
STATE --

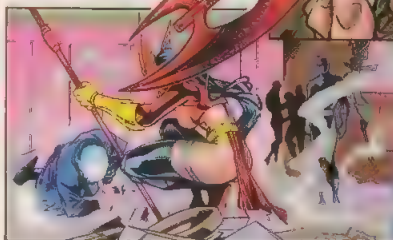
-- AND
NONE OF
YOU CAN HARM
THAT WHICH YOU
CANNOT
TOUCH!



ON THE
CONTRARY--

-- THE PSYCHIC
SCYTHE OF HUNTARR
CAN RIP THROUGH THE
FABRIC OF ANY FORM
OF REALITY

LORDS
OF ELSEWHEN!
HE D'SSOLVES
BEFORE MY
VERY
EYES!

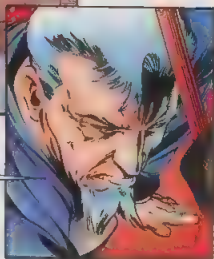


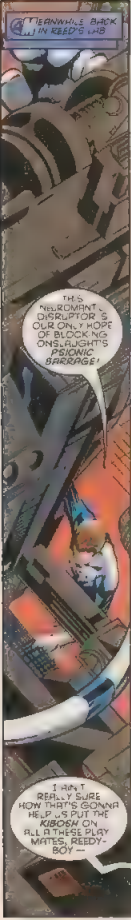
B-BUT I
NEVER INTENDED
TO KIL... HIM!

Y'YOU
AREN'T TO
BLAME MY
DEAR

THERE
CAN ONLY BE
ONE EXPLANATION FOR
THESE BEWILDERING
MANIFESTATIONS.

FRANKLIN!





MEANWHILE BACK IN REED'S LAB

THIS NEURONANT DISRUPTOR'S OUR ONLY HOPE OF BLOCKING ONSLAUGHT'S PSIONIC BARRAGE!

I AMT REALLY SURE HOW THAT'S GONNA HELP US PUT THE KIBOSH ON ALL THESE PLAY MATES, REEDY-BOY—



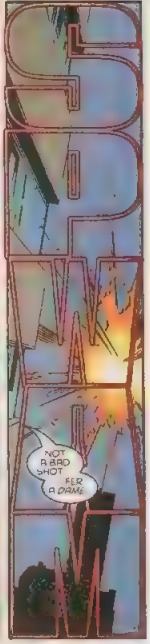
...BUT I'D RATHER WRESTLE ON TYROS THE TERRIBLE THAN LISTEN TO A LONG-WINDED EXPLANATION

GLAD I MANAGED TO STASH ALICIA IN THE TRASH CENTER BEFORE COMING HERE

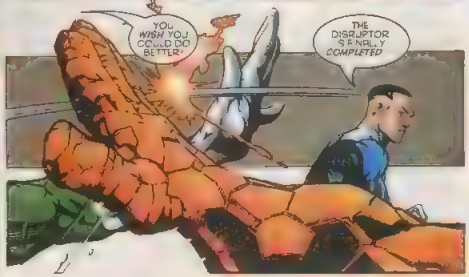


YOU NEED A BREATHING THING?

I'M JUST WARMING UP, SHE-HULK-- BUT FEEL FREE TO LEND A HAND!



NOT A BAD SHOT FOR A DAME



YOU WISH YOU COULD DO BETTER!

THE DISRUPTOR'S FINALLY COMPLETED



BUT I
STILL NEED A
POWER SOURCE
CAPABLE OF WITH-
STAND NO ONE OF
ONSLAUGHT'S
ELECTROMAGNETIC
PULSES

WHY N
TA SAT DO
"RETCAP"

GOT TA
ALIEN GIZMO
WHICH S JUST
CLEAN
DO

AN I
FIGGER IT'S
GOT MORE'N ENUFF
JIFE TA WITHSTAND
ANYTHIN' ONSLAUGHT
AN T AS A?



BUT BEN,
THAT'S THE
MACHINE WHICH
RESTORES YOU
TO HUMAN
FORM!

T MAY
BE YOUR ONE
CHANCE AT A NORMAL
LIFE -- AND THERE S NO
GUARANTEE IT CAN EVER
BE RECONSTRUCTED!

I CAN'T ASK YOU
TO MAKE SUCH A
SACRIFICE!



"CAN'T
ASKIN'..."
I'M
VOLUNTEERIN'



N
CASE A
FORGOT
FRANKLIN'S
STILL MY
GODCHILD!

AN THERE
AIN'T NUTHIN'
I WOULDN'T BE
WILLIN' TA GIVE
UP FOR 'IM!

AT ON ABOVE THE
STREETS OF
MANDALAY, THE AIR
BEGINS TO BUSTER.

I
I'M CAUGHT
BETWEEN
ANNIHILUS AND
DRAGON
MAN!

IT'S
LIKE THE
WORLD'S
GONE
MAD!

FOR
EVERY LOONEY I
DEFEAT, UP POPS
ANOTHER!

SUDDENLY A STRANGE
UNIDENTIFIED AIRSHIP
STREAKS TOWARDS
YOUR FREEDOM
PLAZA AND 4EN

PA
ROOM!

SNACK QUICKLY REPLACES
GRATITUDE AS A MAJESTIC
FIGURE EMERGES FROM
THE HOVERING CRAFT.

YOU!
ONS. AUGHT
RECRUITED YOU?

DON'T BE
IMPERTINENT!

I AM
NOT FOR
H RE

I
WANTED YOU
DEAD ..

YOUR
CORPSE WOULD
ALREADY BE SMEARED
ACROSS THE
PAVEMENT

MAY
BE I
BUY YOUR
ZAP
AND
EXACTLY
ARE YOU
H RE

I DEMAND AN URGENT
AUDIENCE WITH REED
RICHARDS

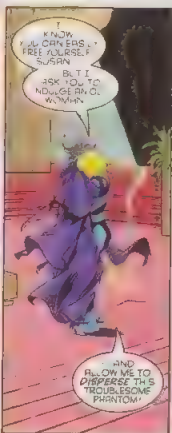
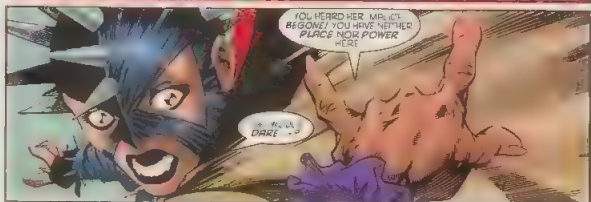
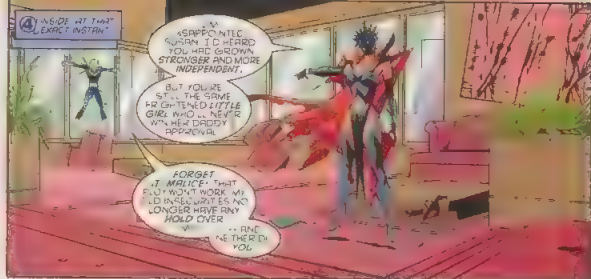
I
ASSUME
EVEN YOU CAN
GUESS THE
TOPIC

AND, NO
MATTER HOW LAX
THE CURRENT STATE
OF YOUR BUILDING'S
SECURITY ..

A
PERSONAL
ESCORT WILL
ALWAYS BE
REQUIRED
FOR --

DOCTOR
ROOM!

C-CAN'T
KEEP THIS
PACE MUCH
LONGER





THE SHOT
A HUNDRED
YARDS AWAY

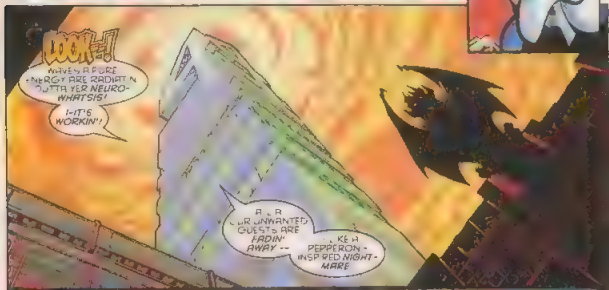
THE SHOT
TRAVELING
THROUGHOUT OUR
HEADQUARTERS
PLT THIS COULD
BE A TON OF TRUTH
END T

THE
BUT TENUFF
SUSPENSE, BIG
KRAAN

PRESS THE
PERSHLOUGH
BUTTON
ALREADY



HERE
GOES T JUST
PRAY IVE
CALCULATED
CORRECT



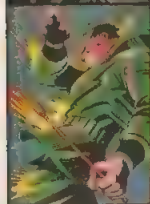
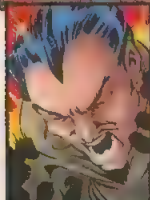
DOCK!!

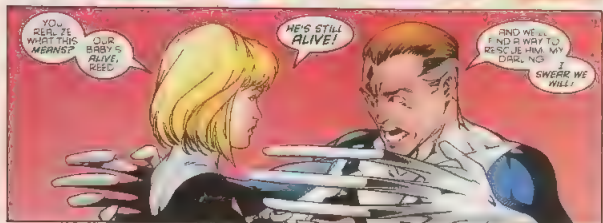
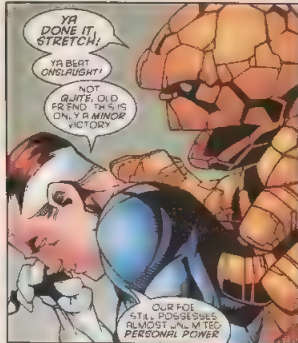
WAVE S AFORE
ENERGY ARE RADIAT N
OUTTA YER NEURO-
WHATSIS!

I-IT'S
WORKIN'!

A R R
OUR UNWANTED
GUESTS ARE
FADIN'
AWAY --

KE H
PEPPERON -
INSPIRED NIGHT-
MARE







I THOUGHT I'D
WELCOME ANYONE
WHO COULD
HELP ME RECOVER
MY SON. BUT
DOOM?

CAN
WE TRUST
HIM?

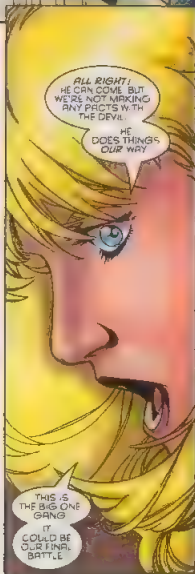
ABSOLUTELY
NOT!

BUT
DEFEATING
ONSLAUGHT
OBVIOUSLY SUITS
HIS PERSONAL
AGENDA --

-- AND
WE CAN USE THE
ASSIST!

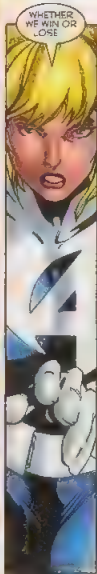
BEN AND I
WILL KEEP A
CLOSE EYE
ON HIM.

SURRE!
AIN'T LIKE WE
GOT ANYTHIN'
ELSE TO
DO!



ALL RIGHT!
HE CAN COME. BUT
WE'RE NOT MAKING
ANY PACTS WITH
THE DEVIL.

HE
DOES THINGS
OUR WAY.



WHETHER
WE WIN OR
LOSE



I
WANT YOU
TO KNOW HOW
MUCH I TRULY
LOVE YOU
ALL!

AW,
SUZIE.
NOT THAT
Corny HAND
THING



STOP
BELL-YACHING
MERTHEO! IT'S
TRADITION



JOHNNY'S
RIGHT! THERE'S
NO BETTER WAY TO
TO FACE THIS
CONFLICT



AWRIGHT...
BUT
THIS IS
DEFINITELY
THE LAST
TIME!



GATHER UP
EVERYONE!

I DON'T
NEED TO EXPLAIN
WHAT'S AT STAKE
HERE. WE ARE FIGHTING
FOR FAR MORE THAN
THE LIFE OF MY SON,
THOUGH THAT WOULD
BE ENOUGH.



I DON'T
NEED TO EXPLAIN
WHAT'S AT STAKE
HERE. WE ARE FIGHTING
FOR THE MORE THAN
THE LIFE OF MY SON,
THOUGH THAT WOULD
BE ENOUGH.

IF
WE FAIL
HUMANITY
DIES!
GO!
READY TO
RUMBLE,
PEOPLE!

IN THE
WORDS OF
MY DEAREST
FRIEND
...IT'S
GLOBBERN'
TIME!
NUFF
SAYD

THE END

4

FOR NOW!

IF
WE FAIL...
HUMANITY
DIES!

GET
READY TO
RUMBLE,
PEOPLE

IN THE
WORDS OF
MY DEAREST
FRIEND

... IT'S
CLOBBERIN'
TIME!

NUPP
SAD

THE END

4

FOR NOW!

I AM UATU

FOR MILLENNIA, A BEYOND NUMBER I HAVE BEEN A WATCHER WHO HAS PASSIVELY OBSERVED THE PHENOMENA OF THE UNIVERSE

UNTIL RECENTLY I WAS STATIONED UPON YOUR MOON WHERE I OFTEN MONITORED THE INHABITANTS OF PLANET EARTH.

TIME AND AGAIN MY ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO THE INDIVIDUALS YOU KNOW AS THE FANTASTIC FOUR.

HEY ARE GLOBAL PLAYERS IN THE HISTORY OF YOUR PLANET SAVING IT ON COUNTLESS OCCASIONS

BUT THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THEIR LIVES MIGHT HAVE TAKEN A DIFFERENT PATH

JOIN ME NOW TO VIEW A MOST CRITICAL SITUATION AS WE EXAMINE

FEARS
NOT
TAKEN!

STAN LEE PRESENTS
"OM DEBALCO" WRITER
JOHN BUSCEMA - PENCILER
TOM PALMER - INKBER
ED LAZZELLARI - COLOR ARTIST
JIM NOVAK - LETTERER
MALIBU - COLOR ENHANCEMENT
SUZANNE GAFFNEY - EDITOR
BOB HARRAS - EDITOR IN CHIEF
WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO
RAFAEL MARIN AND
CARLOS PACHECO

BEHOLD AN EXCITED AND EXUBERANT EIGHTEEN YEAR OLD REED RICHARDS AS HE ARRIVES ON THE CAMPUS OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY.

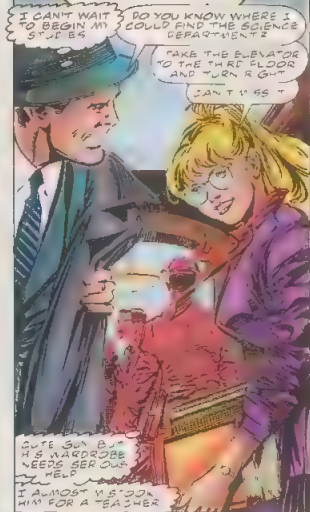
THIS IS IT THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF MY LIFE

I'VE DREAMED OF THIS MOMENT

AT LAST! I'LL HAVE ACCESS TO THE LATEST SCIENTIFIC THEORIES AND PROCEDURES--

AS WELL AS A STATE OF THE ART LABORATORY FILLED WITH THE MOST SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT.





I CAN'T WAIT TO BEGIN MY STUDIES

DO YOU KNOW WHERE I COULD FIND THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT?

TAKE THE ELEVATOR TO THE THIRD FLOOR AND TURN RIGHT

I AM NOT

CUTE GUY BUT HIS WARDROBE NEEDS SERIOUS HELP

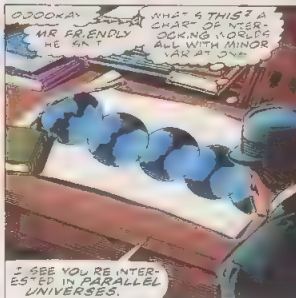
I ALMOST MIS TOOK HIM FOR A TEACHER



TO REED'S SURPRISE SOMEONE ELSE WAS AS ANXIOUS TO SEE THE SCIENCE LAB AS HE WAS A MAN WHOSE DEATH WOULD BE SOBERLY LINKED WITH HIS OWN

IT'S NAME'S RICHARDS FELLOW REED RICHARDS!

THAT IS NO CONCERN OF MINE!



OOOOKAY

MR. FRIENDLY HE SAID

WHAT'S THIS? A CHART OF NEER-DOCKING WORLDS ALL WITH MINOR VARIATIONS

I SEE YOU'RE INTERESTED IN PARALLEL UNIVERSES.



YOU ARE AWARE OF THE THEORY OF MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS?

CERTAINLY I'VE STUDIED THE WORK OF BOTH EINSTEIN AND HERMANN VON HELMHOLTZ ON THE SUBJECT

BAH! THEY BARELY SCRATCHED THE SURFACE WITH THEIR FOCUS ON THE FOURTH DIMENSION



I BELIEVE THERE ARE COUNTLESS PLANES OF REALITY BEYOND OUR OWN

REALLY? I'D LIKE TO HEAR MORE BY THE WAY WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

I AM VICTOR VON DOOM!

SENDING JIMMY
SPRINT ONE WHOSE
MIND WAS AS RAVEN-
OUS AS HIS OWN
FEEL SUGGESTED
THEY BECOME ROOM-
MATES BL

BUT AFTER THE DOOR
LEADER REED RICHARD
REFUSED TO GIVE UP

DON'T BE SUCH A STIFF
V.C. WE'D BE GOOD
TOGETHER

A CONSTANT
CHALLENGE
TO EACH
OTHER

MY NAME
IS VICTOR
NOT VIC!

REMEMBER THAT
AND I MAY ALLOW
YOU TO ASSIST ME
IN MY EXPERIMENTS

I HAVE NO
WISH TO
SHARE A
ROOM WITH
ANYONE

I DESIRE
PRIVACY

TELL ME MORE
ABOUT YOUR SPECU-
LATONS ON PARALLEL
WORLDS

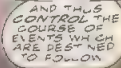
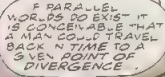
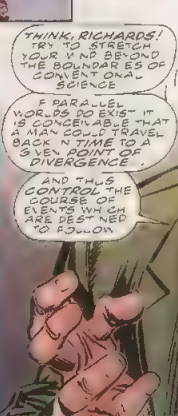
I AM SURE, NEED
THERE ARE AN
INFINITE NUMBER
OF DIMENSIONS
WHICH DIVERGE
FROM OUR OWN
AT CERTAIN
CRITICAL
POINTS!

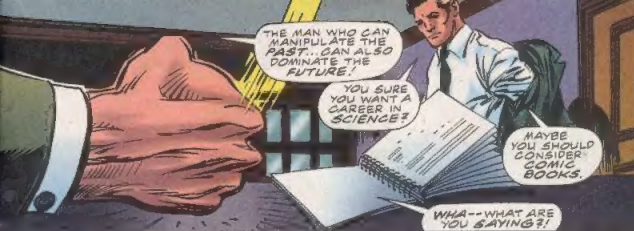
THINK OF THE
POSSIBILITIES!

IMAGINE A
WORLD WHICH WASN'T
STRUCK BY A GREAT
METEOR THOUSANDS
OF YEARS AGO

A WORLD WHERE
DINOSAURS EXISTED
TO THE VERY DAY







THE MAN WHO CAN MANIPULATE THE PAST... CAN ALSO DOMINATE THE FUTURE!

YOU SURE YOU WANT A CAREER IN SCIENCE?

MAYBE YOU SHOULD CONSIDER COMIC BOOKS.

WHA--WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!



WELL, IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT AREN'T YOU CARRYING THIS "MAD SCIENTIST" BIT A LITTLE TOO FAR?

MEN ALWAYS THINK THAT THEIR SUPERIORS ARE MAD.

BUT I SHALL BE VINDICATED IN THE END.

LIGHTEN UP, VIC. WE CAN STILL BE FRIENDS.

NEVER!

I DESPISE INFORMALITY, RICHARDS!

AND I WILL NOT ASSOCIATE WITH ONE WHO IS SO OBVIOUSLY MY INTELLECTUAL INFERIOR.

I'M GLAD HE DIDN'T ACCEPT MY OFFER.

THERE'S SOMETHING OMINOUS ABOUT HIM... I CAN FEEL IT!



"REED'S THOUGHTS WOULD EVENTUALLY PROVE AS ACCURATE AS THEY WERE PROPHETIC, BUT EVEN AS VON DOOM STORMED FROM THE ROOM..."

WATCH OUT!

YOU'RE IN MY WAY, YOU GLUMSY OAF!



"SHEESHE YOU MUST BE NEW TO THIS PLANET, PRETTY BOY."

"FER YER INFORMATION, BENJAMIN J. GRIMM ALWAYS HAS THE RIGHT 'A WAY."

"UNHAND ME, MUSCLE-BOUND, BABOON!"

"WHY? I'LL BRUISE MY KNUCKLES ON YER POINTY LI'L CHIN? NO NEED TA WORRY, PAL, 'CAUSE..."

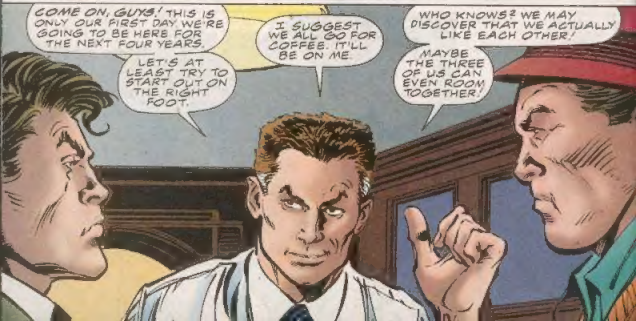
"IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!"

"BUT, AS HE WOULD DO SO OFTEN IN THE FUTURE, REED RICHARDS IMPOSED HIMSELF BETWEEN THESE TWO ANGRY MEN, WITHOUT THOUGHT TO HIS OWN SAFETY..."



"SIMMER DOWN! THERE'S NO NEED FOR VIOLENCE."

"SEE YOU!"



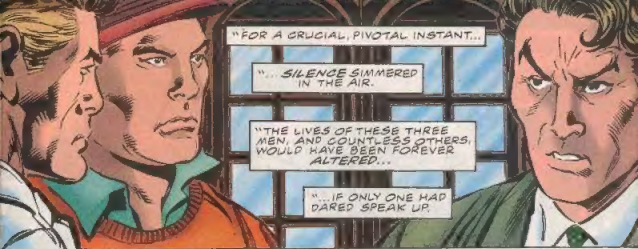
"COME ON, GUYS! THIS IS ONLY OUR FIRST DAY. WE'RE GOING TO BE HERE FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS."

"LET'S AT LEAST TRY TO START OUT ON THE RIGHT FOOT."

"I SUGGEST WE ALL GO FOR COFFEE. IT'LL BE ON ME."

"WHO KNOWS? WE MAY DISCOVER THAT WE ACTUALLY LIKE EACH OTHER!"

"MAYBE THE THREE OF US CAN EVEN ROOM TOGETHER!"



"FOR A CRUCIAL, PIVOTAL INSTANT..."

"... SILENCE SIMMERED
IN THE AIR.

"THE LIVES OF THESE THREE
MEN, AND COUNTLESS OTHERS,
WOULD HAVE BEEN FOREVER
ALTERED..."

"...IF ONLY ONE HAD
DARED SPEAK UP.



"BUT THAT INSTANT DIED AS VON DOOM
GATHERED HIS BELONGINGS WITH A
DERISIVE LAUGH..."

YOU'RE A DREAMER,
RICHARDS.

A PATHETIC
IDEALIST!

THERE IS
LITTLE CHANCE
THAT I COULD
EVER HAVE
ANYTHING IN
COMMON WITH
THE LIKES OF
YOU TWO.

GO ON! GET
OUTTA HERE!
NOBODY WANTS
YA, ANYWAY.

YOU'VE GOT
YOURSELF
A NEW
ROOMIE,
RICHARDS.

THE NAME'S
BEN GRIMM.
I FIGURE I'LL
BE MORE
LAUGHS THAN
THE NUT WHO
JUST FLEW
OUTTA HERE.

NO QUESTION
ABOUT IT, BEN.
I'VE GOT A
HUNCH THIS
COULD BE THE
BEGINNING
OF A LONG
FRIENDSHIP.



ANYTHING IS
POSSIBLE!

JUST DON'T
START BLUBBERIN'
ON ME!



EVERY INDIVIDUAL MAKES A FEW THOUSAND MINOR DECISIONS IN THE COURSE OF A SINGLE DAY.

MANY ARE OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE IN THE GRAND SCHEME.

OTHERS MAY FASHION THE FUTURE!

A SARCASTIC RETORT, A FRIENDLY GESTURE, A FORGIVING WORD-- WHO KNOWS HOW THEY CAN DRAS-
TICALLY AFFECT ONE'S DESTINY?

IF REED RICHARDS AND VICTOR VON DOOM HAD MANAGED TO BRIDGE THEIR GULF, THEY MIGHT HAVE WORKED TOGETHER--

--AND THE TERRIBLE CHAIN OF EVENTS WHICH CREATED DOCTOR DOOM WOULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED, SPARING THIS WORLD UNTOLD MISERY!

HOWEVER, VON DOOM WOULD HAVE INSURED THAT REED'S ORIGINAL STARSHIP WAS PROPERLY SHIELDED AGAINST COSMIC RAYS--

--AND THIS PLANET WOULD HAVE NEVER KNOWN THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

WOULD THE EARTH BE A BETTER PLACE WITH NEITHER DOOM NOR THE FF?

WOULD THEY, THEMSELVES, PREFER LIVES FREE OF SUPER-HUMAN POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES?

OF THE INFINITE PATHS ANY GIVEN LIFE MAY TAKE, WHO IS TO SAY WHICH ONE IS BEST?

CERTAINLY NOT I!

I AM THE WATCHER, AND I MUST NOW BID YOU A FOND FAREWELL!

